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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE-FOREST SERVICE
California Forest and Range Experiment Station
Division of Forest Insect Research

FOREST INSECT INSPECTION OF THE SAN BERNARDINO AND ANGELES NATIONAL FORESTS

At the request of the Regional Office, the Division of Forest Insect Research made an inspection of the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests during the period of November 14 to 16, 1954. The main purpose of the inspection was to check on the sanitation-salvage marking on the Wrightwood-Big Pines and Barton Flat areas, and the salvage marking on fire-injured trees in the Crestline area.

R. C. Hall and G. L. Downing represented the Experiment Station and J. W. Averell the Regional Office on this inspection. A discussion of specific areas follows:

Wrightwood - Big Pines Area
Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests

Prairie Fork Drainage

An inspection was made of the Prairie Fork Drainage to determine if there was sufficient high risk material in the area to justify a sanitation-salvage cut. This was in the form of a general reconnaissance, since time did not permit a more formal sampling. From general impressions there appeared to be sufficient high risk material to justify a sanitation-salvage cut in the area, particularly in the lower portion of the drainage to the east of the recently burned area.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Prairie Fork Drainage be included in the present proposed sanitation-salvage sale area.

Timber Marking on the Proposed Sale Area

Several spot checks were made of the area marked for the proposed Wrightwood-Big Pines Sale. It was our understanding that sanitation-salvage treatment was to be applied to this area and that all high risk trees were to be marked for cutting. The actual marking is far from this. Our inspection showed that practically no high risk trees have, as yet, been marked. In one sample of about thirty acres, 16 trees had been marked. Of these, 11 were abandoned by insects and many were without needles. Three were currently infested. Only two high risk trees had been included in the entire number. Removal of such trees is essentially straight salvage; it is not sanitation-salvage. It is questionable if any of the 11 abandoned trees have any appreciable quality grade in them since they are all Jeffrey pine.

There seems to be a great deal of confusion on just what type of marking is involved in this project. The local administrative men seem inclined to avoid the cutting of any high risk trees. They quote the recreation people in the Regional Office as maintaining that there should be no cutting, particularly in high-use camping and picnic areas. It seems clear that a decision must be reached as to the marking policy at the Regional Office level so that the Division of Recreation and Lands and Timber Management are in agreement on this matter.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the matter of marking policy be reviewed by the Division of Recreation and Lands, the Division of Timber Management in the Regional Office and the Division of Forest Insect Research in the Experiment Station so that there is a clear understanding by all concerned as to the objectives. It is further recommended that if sanitation salvage is to be tried in this area, it should be undertaken with the idea that all high risk trees be removed over the area as a whole, without local restrictions. If this is not feasible, then the type of control agreed by all concerned to be best for the area should be adopted and should be labeled by its proper term. The present standards of marking will not result in insect control, but only in the salvage of insect-killed trees. Therefore, the operation should be termed salvage and not sanitation-salvage.

Barton Flats Area
San Bernardino National Forest

Timber Marking on the Sanitation-Salvage Sale Area

An inspection was made of the marking on the Barton Flat sanitation-salvage sale area. In general, the marking in this area as a whole is satisfactory, but there are local areas where the marking has been rather conservative. These are usually areas of high use where many Risk Three trees have been given the benefit of the doubt and not marked.

Recommendation

It is again recommended that all high risk trees be marked in all areas. Since this is an experimental cutting to test the effectiveness of sanitation-salvage in southern California, the marking should be made as carefully as possible.

Fire Damage in the Crestline Area
San Bernardino National Forest

An inspection was made of the marking of fire-injured timber in the Crestline area. This marking has been very well done and we have no suggestions for improvement.

To date there has been very little buildup of bark beetles in the fire-injured material. This area should be periodically checked during the winter, and if these trees become infested they should be treated.

The Arrowhead-Crestline Control Zone
San Bernardino National Forest

A reconnaissance was made of the Arrowhead-Crestline Control Zone. This area appears to be remarkably free of damage at this particular time. The San Bernardino Forest is to be commended for the fine job of maintenance control which they have been conducting in the area.

The Black Pine Leaf Scale Problem
Crestline Area

The black pine leaf scale is causing considerable damage in the Crestline area. One area was observed where killing is occurring in mature trees in the vicinity of the thinning experiment area. This is the first evidence we have had of killing in large trees. The trees killed in this area were all full crowned Dunning Class Three trees. It was also observed that the scale has greatly expanded its distribution and is now found throughout the Arrowhead Area.

Recommendation

It is recommended that a salvage sale be made of the mature trees killed by this insect in the Crestline area. It is also recommended that the possibility of control of this insect through the usual application of chemicals be tested on a pilot scale basis.

Berkeley, California
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